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Approved For Release 2005/08/02 : CIA-RDP85B00236R000400020038-8

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

25 June 1981

Mr. Laurence Pickering
Chief, Classification and Declassification
Center/Systematic Review
Bureau of Administration
The Department of State
Room 1239, New State Building
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Larry:

Returned herewith are the 76 galley-proof pages of Volume XIII, Indochina, 1952-54, of the Foreign Relations of the United States series which you submitted to us on 6 May 1981 for our final clearance of excisions prior to printing and publication. Some of these documents had not previously been sent to CIA for review. We have carefully reviewed these documents and have no objection to their declassification. We had also previously reviewed some of these documents and had indicated no objection to declassification. These documents were not re-reviewed and may be published based on our earlier determination. The majority of the documents which we had requested to be sanitized were sanitized as requested and may be published. However, there are five documents that were not sanitized as requested. Our determination on these five documents is shown below:

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321 BER -- The phrase "continued Admiral Radford" was not excised as requested. We requested excision of these three words to improve clarity and not for security reasons. Therefore, although we still believe clarity is improved by excision, we do not object to inclusion of the three words.

326 BER --



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This information must remain classified under E.O. 12065, Section 1-301(c) intelligence activities, sources or methods and (d) foreign relations or foreign activities of the United States. We request the entire two sentences be excised as originally recommended.

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360 BER -- The words "The results" and "helpful" were not excised as recommended. Upon re-examination we have determined that no identifiable damage will result from inclusion of these three words and therefore we will make no further objection to their inclusion.

361 BER -- We had requested that the entire first paragraph be excised but only a few words were removed. The majority of this paragraph must be excised to protect intelligence activities, sources or methods under E.O. 12065, Section 1-301(c).

Only the following words may be released without identifiable damage: "Mr. Dulles stated that ... Ho Chi Minh. He was probably still alive, but he was a very strange leader indeed. He had made no public appearances" (C)

Attached is a list of the 76 pages being returned. We are using five categories to reflect the determinations resulting from this final review as follows:

N -- No CIA objection to declassification based on this first review.

N/P -- No CIA objection to declassification based on our previous review.

S/V -- Sanitization verified.

S/A -- Sanitization changed but acceptable.

S/U -- Sanitization changed and unacceptable until specified marked portions are excised. (U)

We note that there are several sanitized pages which have not yet been sent to us for verification. Upon receipt and verification of these pages and your assurance that other requested excisions have been made, we will be able to provide our final clearance of Volume XIII for publication. (U)

I am compelled to comment here that I am somewhat disturbed by these revelations; i.e. that the Historical Office has decided unilaterally to retain for publication certain passages which we had specifically asked to be excised. This action destroys the trust we are attempting to build, leads us to request an examination of the galley proofs of all those documents in which we have indicated excisions, adds to our mutual burdens in the additional handling required, and --

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certainly contrary to HO's own desires -- serves to delay further the clearance of the volume for publication. Time, experience, the vicissitudes of the political scene, all lead to the possibility that some changes may be made in our review decisions considering the length of time that has been elapsing (years in many cases) between the date of the original review and the date the galleys are set. As you know, we have been and will continue to be amenable to discussion of a difference of viewpoint should HO have some problem with our excisions. We hope that this is the route HO will take in the processing of future volumes, as opposed to the regrettably unilateral action it has taken here. (U)

Sincerely,



25X1

Chief, Classification Review Division
Office of Information Services
Directorate of Administration

Attachment:

76 pages of Vol. XIII, 1952-54
Indochina, FRUS

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee, w/att

1 - Vol. XIII, 1952-54, w/att

1 - Liaison w/Dept. of State, w/o att

1 - Chrono, w/o att

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23 June 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

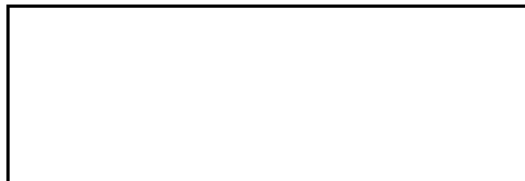
STAT FROM:

[redacted]
Chief, Classification Review Division

SUBJECT: FRUS, Volume V, 1952-54

In the course of a conversation with Larry Pickering on 23 June concerning various FRUS matters, Larry provided me with the assurance that there is no further material intended for publication in this volume which is of interest to this Agency and which has not been reviewed by us. Accordingly, we will provide State with our final clearance of this volume.

STAT



Distribution:

- 1 - Volume V, 1952-54
- 1 - Liaison w/State
- 1 - Chrono

STAT [redacted] jal